



CONGRESSMAN BOBBY L. RUSH
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2013

"I am committed to doing everything within my power to stop the domestic terrorism that too many of my fellow citizens endure as a de facto way of life."

Did you Know?

- Everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.
- In 2012, there were 513 homicides in Chicago, which was a 15 percent increase from 448 homicides in 2011.
- In Chicago, since the beginning of the 2007–2008 school year, over two dozen children have lost their lives to violence, and the great majority were killed with guns.
- Gun violence is ravaging our communities and is the leading cause of death for African-American males between the ages of 15–34.
- Firearm injuries are the second leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide, surpassed only by motor-vehicle injuries.
- Children and young people under the age of 25 constituted over 40% of all firearm deaths and injuries in 2001.
- The overall firearm-related death rate among U.S. children under age 15 is nearly 12 times higher than that among children in 25 other industrialized nations combined.
- African-Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population, but in 2001 suffered almost 25% of all firearm deaths and 52% of all firearm homicides.
- Once all the direct and indirect medical, legal and societal costs are factored together, the annual cost of gun violence in America amounts to \$100 billion.

On January 3, 2013 I reintroduced [H.R. 34](#): Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2013 into the 113th Congress.

I introduced this bill in tribute to a brave young hero, Blair Holt, who sacrificed his life in an attempt to protect the life of a friend. Blair was fatally shot and killed by a young man possessing a deadly firearm and a reckless disregard for human life.

The proliferation of guns in our community impacts us all. My son lost his life back in 1999 due to senseless gun violence and my nephew sits in jail today, convicted of fatally shooting someone.

I am sick and tired of shooting and the loss of innocent lives over and over again in our neighborhoods.

This bill will assist law enforcement in tracking the flow of guns and require those who pos-

sess guns to be trained in gun safety, handling, and storage.



Rep. Rush (center) with Ronald Holt (2nd from left), and a Julian High School Student who was shot during the May 10, 2007 shooting (white t-shirt).

The purpose of this bill is to restrict the availability of firearms to criminals, youth, and gang members, and to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the unrecorded sale and transfer of guns.

I know that the powerful gun

lobby will attack this bill for restricting the availability of guns, but all of us who live in the inner cities where our children and family members are losing their lives on a weekly or daily basis understand the need to implement a common sense federal law that will inform law enforcement of where the guns are and who is possessing them.

This bill will implement the same type of system that we have in place for licensing drivers and registering cars. No sensible individual can argue with the fact that with over 200 million guns in the United States, we need a uniform system to keep track of these weapons. Mayors and law enforcement officials across the country have been calling for this type of legislation for years and I hope that we will be successful in making Blair's Bill federal law.

The future of our children, our families, and our communities is at stake.

Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2013

Who is Blair Holt?

Blair's Bill is named in honor of Blair Holt, a Chicago high school student who was senselessly murdered on a crowded CTA bus when he acted to protect a friend from a stray bullet. On May 10, 2007, a lone teenage gunman boarded a public bus full of students returning home from school and began shooting indiscriminately into the crowd.

In a selfless act which epitomized the word hero, Blair Holt sacrificed his own life when he used his body to shield a young female friend from one of the gunman's bullets. In this fleeting moment, without time to think, Blair instinctively acted in

a way that would make any soldier fighting abroad to protect their friends and fellow comrades proud.

Unfortunately, while Blair's act was rare and exceptional, the scene of young people being gunned down in their own schools, homes and neighborhoods is one that is replayed over and over again on a daily basis in many American cities.

What is the purpose of the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2013?

To protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the unrecorded sale or transfer of qualifying

firearms to criminals and youth.

To ensure that owners of qualifying firearms are knowledgeable in the safe use, handling, and storage of those firearms.

To restrict the availability of qualifying firearms to criminals, youth, and other persons prohibited by Federal law from receiving firearms.

To facilitate the tracing of qualifying firearms used in crime by Federal and State law enforcement agencies.